

IN THE CLAIMS

The following list, if entered, replaces all prior versions of the claims.

1. **(Currently Amended)** A system comprising:
a computer readable storage medium comprising program instructions executable to implement a virtual tape interface, wherein
said virtual tape interface is configured to allow a primary storage device
to be accessed using at least one operation that is substantially the
same as that used to control a tape backup device, wherein
[[the]]**said** primary storage device is accessed using said at least
one operation in response to a call received from a utility by said
virtual device interface,
said virtual tape interface is coupled to control said primary storage device and
said tape backup device,
said virtual tape interface comprises a virtual loader library,
said virtual loader library is configured to create a directory corresponding to a
virtual loader on said primary storage device,
said virtual loader library is configured to create a file, within said directory,
corresponding to a virtual tape that can be loaded within said virtual
loader,
said virtual tape interface is configured to store data written to [[the]]**said** virtual
tape in [[the]]**said** file,
said primary storage device comprises non-removable storage media and is
configured to provide access to data stored on [[the]]**said** non-removable
storage media, and
said tape backup device comprises removable storage media and is configured to
permit access to data stored on [[the]]**said** removable storage media.

2. **(Currently Amended)** The system of claim 1, wherein said virtual tape interface is further configured to allow [[the]]said utility to access said primary storage device as said tape backup device.
3. **(Canceled)**
4. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 1, further comprising said primary storage device.
5. **(Canceled)**
6. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 4, further comprising: said tape backup device.
7. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 4, wherein said virtual tape interface comprises:
a virtual loader utilities module, communicatively coupled to said virtual loader library.
8. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 7, wherein said virtual tape interface further comprises:
a main module, communicatively coupled to said virtual loader library; and
a configuration file, accessible by said main module, wherein said configuration file comprises information that allows said virtual loader library to create [[the]]said virtual loader on said primary storage device.
9. **(Currently Amended)** The system of claim 7, wherein said virtual loader library is configured to allow [[the]]said utility to access said primary storage device as said tape backup device.
10. **(Currently Amended)** A method comprising:
creating a directory corresponding to a virtual loader on a primary storage device;
creating a file, within [[the]]said directory, corresponding to a virtual tape that can be loaded within [[the]]said virtual loader;

receiving a first command at a virtual tape interface, wherein [[the]]said first command is received from a utility;

converting [[the]]said first command to a second command using [[the]]said virtual tape interface, wherein

said first command is configured to control a first type of storage device,

said second command is configured to control a second type of storage device,

a tape backup device is said first type of storage device,

said primary storage device is [[the]]said second type of storage device,

said primary storage device comprises non-removable storage media and is configured to provide access to data stored on [[the]]said non-removable storage media, and

said tape backup device comprises removable storage media and is configured to permit access to data stored on [[the]]said removable storage media;

storing data written to [[the]]said virtual tape in [[the]]said file; and

accessing said tape backup device using [[the]]said virtual tape interface.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein said primary storage device is a hard drive.

12-14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein said tape backup device is communicatively coupled to said virtual tape interface.

16. **(Currently Amended)** A computer system comprising:

a processor;

computer readable medium coupled to said processor; and

computer code, encoded in said computer readable medium, configured to cause said processor to:

create a directory corresponding to a virtual loader on a primary storage device;

create a file, within [[the]]said directory, corresponding to a virtual tape that can be loaded within [[the]]said virtual loader;

receive a first command at a virtual tape interface, wherein [[the]]said first command is received from a utility;
convert [[the]]said first command to a second command using [[the]]said virtual tape interface, wherein
said first command is configured to control a first type of storage device,
said second command is configured to control a second type of storage device,
a tape backup device is said first type of storage device,
said primary storage device is [[the]]said second type of storage device,
said primary storage device comprises non-removable storage media and is configured to provide access to data stored on [[the]]said non-removable storage media, and
said tape backup device comprises removable storage media and is configured to permit access to data stored on [[the]]said removable storage media;
store data written to the virtual tape in [[the]]said file; and
access said tape backup device using [[the]]said virtual tape interface.

17. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 16, wherein said primary storage device is a hard drive.

18-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 16, wherein said secondary storage device is communicatively coupled to said virtual tape interface.

22. **(Currently Amended)** A computer program product comprising:
a first set of instructions, executable on a computer system, configured to convert a first command to a second command, wherein
said first command is received by a virtual tape interface from a utility,
said first command is configured to control a first type of storage device,
said second command is configured to control a second type of storage device,

a tape backup device is said first type of storage device,
said primary storage device is [[the]]said second type of storage device,
said primary storage device comprises non-removable storage media and is
configured to provide access to data stored on [[the]]said non-removable
storage media,
said tape backup device comprises removable storage media and is configured to
permit access to data stored on [[the]]said removable storage media, and
said virtual tape interface comprises said first set of instructions and is coupled to
control said primary storage device and said tape backup device;
said virtual tape interface comprises a virtual loader library,
said virtual loader library is configured to create a directory corresponding to a
virtual loader on said primary storage device,
said virtual loader library is configured to create a file, within said directory,
corresponding to a virtual tape that can be loaded within said virtual
loader,
said virtual tape interface is configured to store data written to [[the]]said virtual
tape in the file,
a second set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to access
said tape backup device using said virtual tape interface; and
**computer readable media, wherein said computer program product is encoded in
said computer readable media.**

23. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 22, wherein
said primary storage device is a hard drive.

24-27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
means for creating a directory corresponding to a virtual loader on a primary storage
device;
means for creating a file, within the directory, corresponding to a virtual tape that can be
loaded within [[the]]said virtual loader;

means for converting a first command to a second command, wherein

- said first command is received by a virtual tape interface from a utility,
- said first command is configured to control a first type of storage device,
- said second command is configured to control a second type of storage device,
- a tape backup device is said first type of storage device,
- said primary storage device is [[the]]said second type of storage device,
- said primary storage device comprises non-removable storage media and a means to provide access to data stored on [[the]]said non-removable storage media,
- said tape backup device comprises removable storage media and a means to permit access to data stored on [[the]]said removable storage media,
- said virtual device interface stores data written to [[the]]said virtual tape in [[the]]said file; and
- said virtual device interface comprises said means for converting; and

means for accessing said tape backup device using [[the]]said virtual tape interface.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein said primary storage device is a hard drive.

30-32. (Canceled)

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein said secondary storage device is communicatively coupled to said virtual device interface.

34. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said primary storage device comprises a plurality of files, wherein each of said files corresponds to a respective one of a plurality of virtual tapes.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein said primary storage device comprises a plurality of files, wherein each of said files corresponds to a respective one of a plurality of virtual tapes.

36. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 16, wherein said primary storage device comprises a plurality of files, wherein each of said files corresponds to a respective one of a plurality of virtual tapes.

37. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 22, wherein said primary storage device comprises a plurality of files, wherein each of said files corresponds to a respective one of a plurality of virtual tapes.

38. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28, wherein said primary storage device comprises a plurality of files, wherein each of said files corresponds to a respective one of a plurality of virtual tapes.